



BETHANY
CHURCH OF BERWICK
A Global Methodist Congregation

116 Summerhill Avenue
Berwick, PA 18603



BETHANY BEACON

Mission Statement: We are a Beacon for God—
Helping people to see, to accept and to grow in the light of Jesus Christ

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Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!

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New Address!

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Superimposed love

Maybe you've heard how salvation is like a total solar eclipse: God doesn't see our sins because Jesus' holiness covers them completely. Or maybe you've heard how trials can cause an “eclipse of faith.”

At WorldChallenge.org, Pastor Gary Wilkerson explains that in Greek, *eclipse* means “I am absent” or “I cease to exist,” because people once thought the gods temporarily extinguished the sun. “For Christians, a ‘spiritual eclipse’ is a dark hour when God seems to be absent from our lives,” Wilkerson writes.

Wilkerson points to Peter being sifted like wheat, Elijah and Jeremiah facing extreme discouragement, and David collapsing morally. Amid Satan's attacks, “God seems completely absent,” writes the pastor. “In that dark moment of eclipse, the devil has created such chaos we can't possibly see a way out.” During times of testing, Christians must cry out to God and trust his faithfulness.

Completing the eclipse analogy, Wilkerson shares Titus 3:4, the “love of God our Savior appeared” (NIV). The Greek meaning of *appeared* here is *superimposed*, he writes. God looks on our fraught-filled times of eclipse and “superimposes his divine love over us.”



Short Term Prayer Concerns

Gerda Leek, Joan Kishbaugh, Dorothy Reimel, Tom Harmon, Harvey Eckart, Mark, Cory Holliday, Pastor Roy & Susan Row, Fern Smith, Dave, Thomas Makar, Glen Brook Heathcare Center, Harold and Jane Ackerman and Family, Joey Farr, Janet Eckert, Brian Samsel, Julie Hartenbach, Bill Cooper, Bernie Snedeker, Ruby Sherman, Deb Springman

Please note: If you would like someone to be moved to the long-term list, please contact the church office.

Long-Term Prayer Concerns

Wendy McClintock, Donna Stubbs, Sam Miller, Shirley Hornberger, Kim Varner, Marlene Eckrote, Jim & Carol Zeart, Kim Kishbaugh, Warren Wolfe, Edna Mae Belles, Kent Williams, Rosemary Martz, Joe Phillips, Sr., Betty Morgan, Karen Hunsinger, Bill Mausteller, Billy Robbins, Samantha Scoblink, Nick Pritchuk, Renee Ptashinski, Mike Mattern, Esther Bower, John Ptashinski, Joan Harmon, Dick and Bethann Savage, Carmella Picarello, Judy Harvey, Edna McClintock, Gloria Varner, Pam Price, Tod Locher, Frances Houseknecht, Gary Fisher, Jackie Fisher, Pastor Ed Cope, Tammy Smith

Sympathy for the families of:
Robert Licina, Frank Leffler

"The greatest work in the life of Abraham began at age 75. What is God still calling forth from your life?"

~Pastor John Wesley Leek

PRAY FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY WAR





- 4/01 Chelsea Hunsinger
- 4/03 George Miller
- 4/05 Bill Eckart, Jr.
- 4/06 Andrew Shaffer
- 4/08 RuthAnn Brown, Ronald Kishbaugh, Erin Sullivan
- 4/12 Edna Mae Belles, Lynn Shaffer
- 4/14 Sheila Williams
- 4/16 Pastor John Leek
- 4/18 Jennifer Carroll, Pam Kleintob
- 4/24 Hayden Pollock
- 4/26 Justin Schenkel
- 4/27 Richard Benfield, Brittany Nowakoski
- 4/29 Betty Morgan
- 4/30 Richard Hause



Bible Quiz

What does the newly risen Jesus tell his disciples — twice — when he appears in the locked room where they are hiding?

- A. "Love one another as I have loved you."
- B. "Peace be with you."
- C. "The last shall be first and the first shall be last."
- D. "I am risen!"

Answer: B (See John 20:19, 21.)

**Bethany Church of Berwick
Peacemakers Prayer Support Ministry**

Matthew 5:9

**Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.**

General Prayer for Departments:

- Borough of Berwick Police Department**
- Briar Creek Township Police Department**
- Salem Township Police Department**
- Nescopeck Borough Police Department**
- Columbia County Sheriff's Office**
- South Centre Township Police Department**
- PA State Police Shickshinny Station**

Specific Daily Prayer for Officers: April 2024

1. Kristen Cunnington, Patrolman
2. Deputy Michael Tkach
3. Officer Kyle Trenholm
4. Deputy James Dalton
5. Officer Joseph Gainley
6. Deputy Kevin Bradley
7. Officer Michael Klinetob
8. Vincent Figureido, Patrolman
9. Officer Raymond Thonkinson, III
10. Detective Gregory Martin
11. Sgt. Thomas Hegland
12. Officer Joshua Switzer
13. Chief Deputy Michael Beyer
14. Officer Joshua Lowery
15. Tyler Soboleski, Patrolman
16. Officer Brandon Shultz
17. Deputy James Arter
18. Officer Steven Torres
19. Officer Scott Sienkiewicz
20. William Lefevre, Patrolman
21. Officer Victor Guevara
22. Detective Reagan Rafferty
23. Deputy Kevin Katch
24. Officer Phil Mainiero
25. Officer Michael Quaranta
26. Officer Riley Robinette
27. Cole Schaffer, Patrolman
28. Lee Pitonyak, Patrolman
29. Deputy Anthony Kopitski
30. Officer Randy Gaugler



Pieces of Prayer has changed the meeting time for April.

We will be doing a work day on Wednesday, April 3rd starting at 9:00 am in the Stained Glass Room. Bring a lunch and/or snacks to share. Everyone is welcome to join us at any time during the day for the number of hours you are able to donate. There will be many different types of jobs, sewing ability is not required - just come to enjoy a time of fellowship.

April Ladies Fellowship Gathering

Do you have a brown thumb?

Do you recycle?

Do you enjoy fun & fellowship?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above, then come join us Saturday, April 20, as we "upcycle" some cardboard into a sweet little plant that will never get "too little" or "too much" sunlight, water, fertilizer.....!

Please be sure to register so we can have plenty of supplies available for everyone. And, if you're so inclined, bring a snack to share!

Who: any and all ladies in the community

When: April 20, 1-3 pm

Where: Fellowship Hall Bethany Church of Berwick

Cost: Nothing! (Donations happily accepted!)

Pastor John plans to lead a study inspired by last year's Asbury University awakening. It's tentatively scheduled for June and July, with the specific days and times yet to be decided. If you're interested in joining, please inform Pastor John or Connie!

Prayer Breakfast

On Saturday, April 13, 2024, at 7:15am, a prayer breakfast will be held at Morris Family Restaurant, 6035 Columbia Blvd, Bloomsburg, with Gary Bowman as the speaker.

This is a Christian Fellowship. Women of all ages are welcome. No reservations required.

Join Pastor John for the final "Cottage Meeting" on April 7th in the Church Library.

Limited space is available, so sign up now. This cozy gathering will offer fellowship and meaningful conversation, deepening connections with Bethany Church. We can't wait to see you there! A Signup sheet is on the table across from the Information Desk.

DANIEL — Premiering in Lancaster in 2024!

Live on stage at Sight and Sound Theater from March 14-Dec 31, 2024



Taken from his people, Daniel is exiled far from home in the powerful kingdom of Babylon. Now this faithful servant must navigate his new life inside a palace filled with golden statues and shifting empires. As royal pressures mount, Daniel is faced with a dangerous choice. Will his trust in the one true God remain steadfast through every test of faith?

For tickets & more information: www.sight-sound.com or call 1-800-377-1277. Sight and Sound Theater is located at 300 Hartman Bridge Road, Ronks, PA 17572.



**But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities ...
and with his wounds we are healed.**

Isaiah 53:5, ESV

Missions & Evangelism

Extra Mile Giving for April will go to the Unseths

Many of you know Pete and Carol Unseth, who serve at the Dallas International University, where future missionaries are learning the languages they will need to spread God's Word, and the Bible is translated into many languages. Please give generously to help Pete and Carol as they enable the sharing of the Gospel to those who have never heard it in their own language. Envelopes are available at the Information Desk and also at the Angel Card table where you pick up your Beacon if you choose to support The Unseths.

3/4/24
Thanks so much, Connie,
for all you do for us!
May the Lord Bless you all
as you welcome Pastor
Leek and family!
Carol & Pete

A reception was held after the 9 am worship service on March 17, 2024 to celebrate Paul Miller's retirement as the church custodian. We appreciate Paul and want to thank him for his years of service to Bethany Church. Pictured below are (left to right): Paul Miller, Pastor John Leek, and Art Leffler, Church Council Chairperson



Bethany friends
Thank you for the
pretty birthday card. I hope
to see you all soon.
Jane Ruhmel

Puzzle!

Complete a Bible verse about spring by writing the word from each raindrop on the correct numbered line below.

11 is
5 LORD
1 gives
4 in
30 the
8 people
25 of
28 for
23 rain
22 the
12 to
26 springtime
29 it
16 the
31 of
21 and
10 Ask
27 the
17 plants
2 thunderstorms
14 who
24 to
20 showers
6 field
18 rain
19 LORD
9 He
15 sends
7 all
13 everyone
3 the

10 _____ 16 _____ 5 _____ 28 _____ 18 _____
 4 _____ 22 _____ 26 _____ ;
 29 _____ 11 _____ 3 _____ 19 _____ 14 _____ 15 _____
 27 _____ 2 _____
 9 _____ 1 _____ 20 _____ 31 _____ 23 _____
 12 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 21 _____ 17 _____ 25 _____
 30 _____ 6 _____ 24 _____ 13 _____

Zechariah 10:1, NIV

Answer: Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone. Zechariah 10:1, NIV

When it rains

The skeleton flower, a perennial native to Japan, has delicate petals that change from opaque white to almost transparent when wet. After it rains, only the flower's intricate, skeleton-like veins are visible.

When the rains come (and they will!) in our lives, the same can be said. Amid difficulty and struggle, our true selves often become more transparent. During a parenting challenge, criticism might emerge. Or while we tackle a tough work project, impatience might rear its ugly head.

Hosea 6:3 (NLT) proclaims: "Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring." The rains will come. Whether you're experiencing light rain or a downpour, ponder what the water reveals. Then ask God how you can be more open to his work in that area.

—Janna Firestone

The risen Jesus invites us into peace as we touch his scarred body. May we, the body of Christ, share his peace with one another by touching each other's lives with love.

Community VBS Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Sunday April 14th @ 4:00—6:00 pm
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 1600 Fowler Avenue, Berwick, PA.
 Take Out Only.

Each dinner cost \$10.00 for Spaghetti, Meatball and Salad. Desserts are available for purchase.

Please contact Sarah Schenkel or Kim Freed to purchase a ticket for the Community VBS Spaghtetti Dinner Fundraiser. Let Sarah know if you would like to help with the fundraiser or help with VBS. Volunteers will need to obtain their clearances.

Register your children for the Community VBS by going to:

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

Community VBS is June 23 to the 27th
 at Bethany Church of Berwick.
 The theme is Dance Party.

A wakeup call

God — let me be aware.
 Let me not stumble blindly down the ways,
 Just getting somehow safely through the days,
 Not even groping for another hand,
 Not even wondering why it all was planned,
 Eyes to the ground unseeking for the light,
 Soul never aching for a wild-winged flight,
 Please, keep me eager just to do my share.
 God — let me be aware.

God — let me be aware.
 Stab my soul fiercely with others' pain,
 Let me walk seeing horror and stain.
 Let my hands, groping, find other hands.
 Give me the heart that divines, understands.
 Give me the courage, wounded, to fight.
 Flood me with knowledge, drench me in light.
 Please — keep me eager just to do my share.
 God — let me be aware.

April 2024						May 2024 ▶	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1 Quiet my heart to receive your Word, O Lord. Easter Monday Bethany Blessings Closed 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)	2 8am TOPS (SGR) 6:30 pm Bells Practice (Sanc)	3 9am Pieces of Prayer Work Day (SGR) 6:15pm Praise Team (BR)	4 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	5	6		
7 Communion 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv 2pm Cottage Meeting (Lib)	8 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)	9 8am TOPS (SGR) 6:30 pm Bells Practice (Sanc)	10 6:15pm Praise Team (BR)	11 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	12	13 7:15 am Prayer Breakfast (Morris Rest-Bloom)	
14 Sunday School Sunday Gary Bowman - Message 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv 4-6 pm VBS Spaghetti Dinner	15 Tax Day 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)	16 8am TOPS (SGR) 6:30 pm Bells Practice (Sanc)	17 PBJ Distribution 6:15pm Praise Team (BR)	18 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg (SGR) 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	19	20 1-3pm Ladies Fun Day (FH)	
21 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv	22 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2) 	23 8am TOPS (SGR) 6:30 pm Bells Practice (Sanc) 7pm VBS Meeting (Good Shepherd Lutheran)	24 6:15pm Praise Team (BR)	25 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	26	27	
28 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv	29 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)	30 8am TOPS (SGR) 6:30 pm Bells Practice (Sanc)					

Blessed be the
God and Father
of our
Lord Jesus Christ!

By his great mercy
he has given us a

new birth

into a

living hope

through the
resurrection
of Jesus Christ
from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NRSV

